

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:
an image reading unit for reading image information of an original resting on an original resting portion[[,]] ; and
~~wherein, at a time of reading, the image reading unit moves along the original resting portion; and~~
a flat cable electrically connecting the image reading unit to a main body of the image reading apparatus to transmit the image information read by the image reading unit to the main body of the image reading apparatus,
wherein, at a time of reading, the image reading unit moves along the original resting portion, and
wherein a width direction of the flat cable ~~includes a component in a direction~~ is perpendicular to an original resting surface so that the flat cable is flexible in a direction parallel to the original resting surface.
2. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a regulating member which prevents the flat cable from coming into contact with a bottom portion of the main body of the image reading apparatus.

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3. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein a coefficient of friction between the flat cable and the regulating member is smaller than a coefficient of friction between the flat cable and the bottom portion of the main body of the image reading apparatus.

4. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the regulating member is a rib provided on the bottom portion of the main body of the image reading apparatus so as to extend in a direction in which the image reading unit moves.

5. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image reading unit is provided with a support portion which supports the flat cable such that the width direction of the flat cable is ~~includes the component in the~~ direction perpendicular to the original resting surface.

6. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the image reading unit is provided with an image reading sensor for reading the image information of the original, and the flat cable is connected to the image reading ~~[[unit]]~~ sensor such that the width direction of the flat cable is ~~substantially~~ parallel to the original resting surface.

7. (Canceled)

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8. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the flat cable does not come into contact with a back surface of the original resting portion when the image information is read by the image reading unit.

9. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, at the time of reading, the image reading unit slides on a back surface of the original resting portion.

10. (Original) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein a distance between the back surface of the original resting portion and a bottom surface of the main body of the image reading apparatus is not more than 50 mm.

11. (Canceled)

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